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Note verbale dated 26 January 2015 from the Permanent Mission of Bahrain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to attach hereto the Manama Declaration adopted at the First International Entrepreneurs Investment Forum, held from 19 to 21 January 2015 (see annex).

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the United Nations requests that the above-mentioned document be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 19.

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Please recycle

Annex to the note verbale dated 26 January 2015 from the Permanent Mission of Bahrain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Manama Declaration adopted at the First International Entrepreneurs Investment Forum

The 2015 Manama Declaration on Entrepreneurship and Development is a set of recommendations derived from the two days of deliberations and discussions held among the 85 experts and 650 entrepreneurs from 80 countries participating in the First International Entrepreneurs Investment Forum, on Entrepreneurship and Investment for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development, held from 19 to 21 January 2015 under the patronage of HRH Prince Khalifa Bin Salman Al-Khalifa, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain, and attended by Mr. Li Yong, Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

Manama Declaration on Entrepreneurship and Sustainable Development

The participants in the First International Entrepreneurs Investment Forum, on Entrepreneurship and Investment for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development:

Having debated all aspects of entrepreneurship and investment, and recalling United Nations General Assembly resolutions 67/202 of 21 December 2012 and 69/210 of 19 December 2014, entitled "Entrepreneurship for development",

Recognizing that industrialization, if conducted in an inclusive and sustainable manner, can create jobs, generate income, increase productivity, transform economies and be a major driver of development,

Noting that realizing these and other benefits depends, first and foremost, on fostering a dynamic private sector, and recognizing in particular the need to promote competitive small and medium-sized enterprises, which are the main source of economic activities and the largest employer in many developing countries — and the main engines of empowerment for women and young people,

Desirous of further promoting entrepreneurship and expanding access to financial and support services, which are among the central challenges developing countries face in growing a vibrant sector,

Declare the following:

1. We welcome the United Nations Secretary-General's message to the First International Entrepreneurs Investment Forum;

2. We commend UNIDO's leadership for their support to entrepreneurs, and count on it to remain a close partner to entrepreneurs;

3. We greatly commend and appreciate the support of the UNIDO Arab International Center for Entrepreneurship and Investment, the Islamic Development Bank Group, the Kuwaiti Fund for Economic Development, the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, the General Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture for Arab Countries, the Global Entrepreneurship Week, the International Network for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, the European

Union-Africa Chamber, the Middle East and North Africa-Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Centre, the International Business and Professional Women's Association and others;

4. We call upon Governments, the private sector, academia, civil society and international organizations to cooperate in undertaking the following steps to facilitate the development of entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized enterprises around the world:

To take a coordinated and inclusive approach to promoting entrepreneurship involving all stakeholders, while noting initiatives of civil society, academia and the private sector as important entrepreneurship drivers;

To consider partnership with the private sector in promoting entrepreneurship, generating employment and investment, increasing revenue potential, developing new technologies and innovative business models, and enabling high, sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth while safeguarding workers' rights;

To strengthen the capacity of national financial institutions to reach out to those who have no access to banking, insurance and other financial services, and encourage them to adopt regulatory and supervisory frameworks to facilitate the safe and sound provision of services to such populations, increase access to information and promote financial literacy, particularly for women;

To expand alternative sources of financing and diversify retail financial systems to include microcredit and microfinance;

To cooperate in support of technology exchange and transfer, innovation and capacity-building programmes for promoting entrepreneurship;

5. We recommend establishing a special secretariat within the Arab International Center for Entrepreneurship and Investment in Bahrain for the Forum and propose convening the International Entrepreneurs Investment Forum every two years, whether in Bahrain or in any country willing to host, in order to review and follow up progress and to identify additional areas of cooperation and action to promote investment in entrepreneurship;

6. We urge the international community, the United Nations Organization, UNIDO, and other relevant international and regional organizations and institutions, civil societies and various stakeholders to take the aforementioned recommendations into account in shaping their policies and in supporting entrepreneurship for sustainable development;

7. We greatly appreciate the hospitality and warm welcome accorded to the participants by the Government and the people of the Kingdom of Bahrain.